

A Guide to Rhode Island's Early Intervention Programs

EI Central Directory



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Rhode Island Department of Human Services

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THE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Welcome!

We are delighted to offer this guide as a resource for your family. This guide has basic information about the Early Intervention Program, as well as information about other resources for families in Rhode Island. We want to know if this guide has been helpful. Please send any comments to: Lisa Schaffran at the RI Parent Information Network 727-4144 x 153 or schaffran@ripin.org This guide is also available online at www.dhs.ri.gov/famchild/early_intervention.htm Check the online version of this guide for the most updated copy.

What is Early Intervention?

Early Intervention (EI) is a family-centered program that promotes the growth and development of infants and toddlers with developmental challenges. Early Intervention provides services to eligible children (from birth to three years old) and their families. Participation in this program is voluntary.

Who is Eligible for EI?

Children who are less than three years old may be eligible who are:

- ♦ experiencing developmental delays,
- ♦ have certain diagnosed conditions, or
- ♦ whose circumstances may result in significant developmental problems.

A 'developmental delay' is when a child does not develop skills at the expected age. All children grow and learn at different rates, but most kids develop a basic set of skills by a certain age. Children who have developmental delays may have special challenges or conditions that need attention. The Early Intervention Program can help families learn how to best help their child.

When a child is referred to Early Intervention, the EI team will evaluate and assess whether or not the child is eligible.

How 'Early Intervention' Works

One of the key aspects of the Early Intervention Program is for parents and the EI professional staff to work together as a team. Each family will have an Early Intervention Service Coordinator. Your Service Coordinator will begin by learning about your child: the people, places and activities which are part of your child's daily routine, what your child enjoys and what is difficult, your child's medical history and development. Your Service Coordinator is interested in the questions and concerns you have about your child's development. Another important aspect of Early Intervention is, as the name implies, to begin services early. When a problem or concern is identified early, the necessary services can begin.

Families are encouraged to actively participate in the Early Intervention Program and are given information in a supportive way. The EI staff is sensitive to racial, cultural and family differences and works with families one-on-one.

What's unique about Early Intervention is that services can be provided in "natural" environments. Natural environments are the day-to-day settings, routines, and activities that young children learn best in. The reason services are provided in natural environments is so parents can be involved in helping their child learn. Family members and/or caregivers can do the actual "hands on" throughout the day, as opportunities arise, with the service providers as consultants, teachers, and coaches. Young children learn best when they are taught skills during the times and places where they need to eat, walk, or talk to people they know and love. Providing services in "natural" environments reflects the core mission of Early Intervention, which is to provide support to families so that they can help their children develop to their fullest potential.

Development of the Individualized Family Service Plan

After a child is determined eligible for Early Intervention, the Early Intervention staff and the family together design a plan call the *Individualized Family Service Plan* (IFSP). This plan outlines the child's strengths and needs. It's developed based on the results of an evaluation or assessment and the concerns of the family. It includes individualized strategies and supports that can be used to meet the desired objectives or goals in the IFSP. Families are key members of the Early Intervention team to develop a plan that is workable and realistic. The plan (IFSP) is reviewed every 6 months or as needed. Families may request an IFSP review at any time and should be in agreement before any changes can be made to a child's IFSP.

Parent Consultants

Every Early Intervention Program has at least one Parent Consultant available to help families. Each Parent Consultant has had a personal experience with the Early Intervention Program and can provide families with resources, support, information, and opportunities to connect with other families in the program. Parent Consultants work closely with the EI staff and provide the "family perspective." Their role becomes especially important to many families as they prepare to transition out of Early Intervention. Parent Consultants also survey families about their experience in EI. The information gathered assists the EI Program and the Department of Human Services identify opportunities for improvement at the local and state level. If you are interested in learning more about the Parent Consultant Program, please call Lisa Schaffran at 727-4144 x153 or (800) 464-3399 x153.

Early Intervention Providers

Anyone can make a referral to the Early Intervention Program. Families can choose their Early Intervention Provider.

Children's Friend and Service

621 Dexter Street
Central Falls, RI 02863
Tel: 401-729-0008
Fax: 401-729-0010
Program Director: Debbie Soares
EI Manager: Michele Cameron
Parent Consultant: Diane Hernandez

Family Resources Community Action

245 Main Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895
Tel: 401-766-0900
Fax: 401-766-8737
Director: Darlene MaGaw
Clinical Supervisors: Marcia Card, Lisa Hillman and Susan Feely
Parent Consultant: Denise Bouley

Family Service of RI

134 Thurbers Avenue
Providence, RI 02905
Tel: 401-331-1350
Fax: 401-274-7602
Director: Linda DiPalma
Clinical Supervisors: Jen Parsons and Heather Brennan
Parent Consultant: Shavon Smith

Hasbro Children's Hospital

593 Eddy Street, Room 120
Providence, RI 02903
Tel: 401-444-3201
Fax: 401-444-4181
Director: Maura Taylor
Program Manager: Ellen Somer Jacobs
Clinical Supervisors: Mary Fournier, Ellen Millea
Parent Consultant: Deborah Milton

J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center

Kent County Chapter ARC
250 Commonwealth Avenue
Warwick, RI 02886
Tel: 401-823-1731
Fax: 401-823-1849
Director: Frank Donahue
Clinical Supervisor: Karen Ostrowsky
Parent Consultant: Tammy Russo

J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center

Kent County Chapter ARC
140 Point Judith Road, Unit 44
Narragansett, RI 02882
Tel: 401-783-6853 or 800-374-1914
Fax: 401-783-6846
Director: Frank Donahue
Clinical Supervisor: Susan Moses
Parent Consultant: Amy Gray

James L. Maher Center

120 Hillside Ave.
Newport, RI 02840
Tel: 401-848-2660
Fax: 401-847-9459
Director: Kathleen Cross
Clinical Supervisor: Mariann Jaroszynski
Parent Consultant: Susan Vandal

Meeting Street

667 Waterman Avenue
East Providence, R.I. 02914
Tel: 401-438-9500
Fax: 401-431-6639
Director: Sharon Terreault
Clinical Supervisors: Margaret Neubauer,
Christina Costigan
Parent Consultant: Betsy Masse

The following agency provides special services to certain families enrolled in Early Intervention. Families must first be enrolled in an Early Intervention Program before being referred to the Groden Center.

The Groden Center

86 Mount Hope Avenue
Providence, RI 02906-1648
274-6310, ext. 1006
Director: Leslie Weidenman

Resolving Disagreements

Families and Early Intervention providers have several **informal options** available to help them resolve disagreements. These include:

- Direct interventions between the family and the Early Intervention staff.
- Assistance from the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Interventions between the family and the Early Intervention staff -

This is often the first approach to resolve a disagreement. Typically this involves further communication between the family and the Early Intervention staff about ways to solve the disagreement. In an effort to develop and maintain collaborative relations with families and Early Intervention, it is recommended that families communicate with the staff person closest to the issue of concern or the Service Coordinator. If the issue is not resolved by working with the staff person, it is recommended that families contact the clinical supervisor in the program. If the disagreement is still not resolved, families may wish to meet with the program's Early Intervention Director.

Assistance from the Department of Human Services -

Staff at the Department of Human Services can assist families and Early Intervention providers by answering questions, offering information, and directly interacting with families and Early Intervention staff. Families can call the DHS Info Line at the Department of Human Services at (401) 462-5300.

For more information on resolving disagreements, see the section below on "Family Rights" under mediation and due process hearings.

RI Interagency Coordinating Council

The RI Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) is an advisory committee whose membership is appointed by the Governor of Rhode Island. The ICC provides a forum for public input from families, service providers, and other stakeholders regarding federal and state policies on the Early Intervention Program. For more information on ICC meetings, please contact, Dawn Wardyga at the RI Parents Information Network, Family Voices, 175 Main St. Pawtucket, RI 02860, 727-4144 x158 or familyvoices@ripin.org

Family Rights

Written Prior Notice

The Early Intervention Program must give you advance written information about any evaluations, services, or other actions affecting your child. Parents know their child best. The information you share with us will make sure that the evaluations and services are right for you. The paperwork assures that you get all the details before any activity takes place. (303.403)

Use of Parent's Native Language or Preferred Mode of Communication

It is your right to thoroughly understand all activities and written records about your child. If you prefer another language or way of communicating we will get an interpreter if possible. The Early Intervention Program wants you to understand so that you can be an informed team member and decision-maker. (303.401 and 303.403)

Parent Consent

The Early Intervention Program needs your permission to take any actions that affect your child. You will be asked to give your consent in writing before we evaluate or provide services. Be sure you completely understand the suggested activities. By being involved, you can help the early intervention program plan services that match your family's preferences and needs. The Early Intervention Program needs to explain what happens if you give your consent and if you do not give your consent. (303.404)

Confidentiality and Release of Information

The Early Intervention Program values the information you and other service and health care providers have learned about your child. We will ask others for this information, but we need your permission in writing to do so. Just as the Early Intervention Program needs your permission to get your child's records from other providers, the records that the early intervention program will develop will not be shared with anyone unless you give your written permission. (303.401-303.404)

Examine Records

You have the right to see anything in the Early Intervention record about your child and family. If you do not understand something in the record, it will be explained to you in a way you understand. (303.402)

Accept or Decline Services without Jeopardy

Along with the other members of your child's Early Intervention team, you will consider which services can best help you accomplish the outcomes that you want for your child and family. You will be asked to give your consent for those services you want. You do not have to agree to all services recommended. You can say no to some services and still get the services that you do want. If you decide to try other services at a later date, you can give your consent then. (303.405)

Mediation

If you and the Early Intervention team don't agree on plans or services, or if you have other complaints about your experience with the program, there are procedures for resolving your concerns. When informal ways of sharing your concerns don't work, you may submit a formal written complaint. Mediation will be offered as a voluntary step. A trained, impartial mediator will facilitate problem solving between you and the Early Intervention Program. If you cannot reach an agreement that satisfies you both, you can have a due process hearing to resolve your complaint. Mediation will not slow down the hearing process. (303.419)

Due Process Procedures

A due process hearing is a formal procedure that begins with a formal written complaint requesting a due process hearing. A knowledgeable and impartial person from outside the program hears your complaint and decides how to best resolve it. (303.420)

Please refer to your Family Rights and Responsibilities Booklet for more details about your rights and how to file a complaint. or call the DHS Info Line at 401-462-5300.

TRANSITION TO OTHER PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Early Childhood Transition Coordination

The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at RI College provides support to the state's EI program on early childhood transition coordination through a grant from the Department of Human Services. The purpose of this project is to develop a system that supports children and their families as they transition from an Early Intervention program to the public schools or other early care and education programs. For more information, please contact Maureen Whelan at 401-456-4735 or mwhelan@ric.edu

Some children who are eligible for Early Intervention Services also will be eligible for preschool special education services when they turn 3 years of age and Early Intervention ends. Listed below are the names of the contact people in each school system who will work with those children and families who will be transitioning to preschool special education.

Local Education Agencies (LEA)- School System Liasons for Early Intervention Transition

<u>Town/City</u>	<u>Name / School</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Barrington	Steven Marchetti Barrington School Department	247-3145
Bristol-Warren	Elaine Skibinski Bristol-Warren Regional School	254-5993 x 211
Burrillville	Jerilyn Caya Autin T. Levy School	568-1340
Central Falls	Mary Silva	725-6572
Chariho	Aimee Silva Chariho School Department	364-1160
Coventry	Peg Harris Coventry Special Education	397-3187 822-9400 x277 (voice mail)
Cranston	Michelle Simpson Cranston Special Education	270-8057
Cumberland	Kathy Gibney Cumberland Preschool Center	722-4434
East Greenwich	Carol Brown East Greenwich Special Education	885-3300
East Providence	Jane Silvia Meadowcrest School	433-6209
Exeter-West Greenwich	Maureen DeCrescenzo Exeter-West Greenwich Special Ed.	397-7420 x 18

<u>Town/City</u>	<u>Name / School</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Jamestown	Beth Pinto Jamestown School Department	423-7020 x 106
Johnston	Susan Jadosz Johnston Public Schools	233-1900 x 2439
Lincoln	Marianne Strubele Lincoln School Department	726-1292
Little Compton	Ann Marie McAndrews Regional Special Education	683-3570
Middletown	Ann Marie McAndrews (see Little Compton)	683-3570
Narragansett	Susan Doboszynski Narragansett Special Services	792-9427
Newport	Susan Hatch Newport Public Schools	847-2100 x 221
New Shoreham (Block Island)	Suzanne Warfel New Shoreham School Department	466-9695
North Kingstown	Barbara Smith Fishing Cove School	268-6591
North Providence	Leslie Desjarlais N. Providence School Department	233-1100 x 124
North Smithfield	Kelly Bernier N. Smithfield Pupil Personnel Services	769-5492 x 211
Pawtucket	Christine Cardosi Pawtucket Public Schools	729-6391
Portsmouth	Ann Dennelle (see Little Compton)	683-3570
Providence	Glenda Guglielmo Christine Shreve (team 2) Hugo Gonzalez (bilingual) Helen Egarton (clinical team) Providence School Dept.	456-9321 456-9469 x238 456-9179 x234 456-9166 456-8330
Scituate, Foster, Gloucester	Joan Osmanski West Gloucester Elementary School	568-4085
	Marilyn Lang (Clinical Support) Northwest Special Education	647-9050

<u>Town/City</u>	<u>Name/ School</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Smithfield	Colleen Poyton Smithfield Public Schools	231-6608
South Kingstown	Pamela Thompson	792-9652 x 16
Tiverton	Ann Marie McAndrews	683-3570
Warren	Elaine Skibinski	254-5993 x 211
Warwick	Pat Burke Lippitt Elementary School	734-3245
Westerly	Mary Brancado Westerly School Department	348-2713
West Greenwich	Maureen DeCrescenzo (see Exeter)	397-7420
West Warwick	Doreen Mercurio West Warwick Special Ed.	822-8432 x 1346
Woonsocket	Mary Beth Wilcox-Ziepniewski	767-4643 x 4844

Child Outreach Screening (for children ages 3-5)

Child Outreach Screening is a program overseen by the Rhode Island Department of Education and offered through every local school district. It is available to all children ages 3-5. This developmental screening looks at several areas including language, cognition, motor, speech, vision, hearing, behavior and socialization. If areas of concern are identified, a referral will be made to the families' local school system for an evaluation to determine eligibility for preschool special education services. For more information, please contact your local Child Outreach program listed below:

Barrington
401-247-3145

Bristol/Warren
401-254-5930

Central Falls
401-727-6177

Charlton
401-364-1160

Coventry
401-822-9410 x249

Cranston
401-270-8006

Cumberland
401-722-4434

*Exeter/West Greenwich/East
Greenwich/South Kingstown/
Narragansett/New Shoreham*

401-295-2888

East Providence
401-433-6216

Jamestown
401-423-7020

Johnston
401-233-1900
x2439

Lincoln
401-726-1292

*Newport County Regional:
Little Compton/ Middletown
Portsmouth/Tiverton*
401-683-3570

Newport
401-847-2100

North Kingstown
401-268-6591

North Providence
401-233-1110 x129

*Northwest Regional:
Burrillville/Foster/Gloucester
North Smithfield*
401-647-7560

Pawtucket
401-729-6511

Providence
401-456-9321

Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of Special Populations: 401-222-3505

For a list of the RI Department of Education liaisons to the school districts, please call 401-222-3505 or go to www.ridoe.net

RESOURCES

Evaluation & Specialty Services

Child Development Center (CDC)

Rhode Island Hospital, Ambulatory Patient Center, 6th floor, 593 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02903

Main number: 444-5685, Parent Consultant: Lisa Landry 444-8485

The CDC Serves families with children from birth to 21 years old. Referral to the CDC must be made by the child's physician on a specific referral form.

The CDC offers evaluations of children and adolescents by a team of specialists. After completing a series of evaluations, a team of specialists meets to make a diagnosis and recommendations for treatment. This team approach allows coordination between specialists so that the whole child is considered. Children who have multiple issues may benefit from evaluation at the Child Development Center. Specialists from the following areas are involved as needed to identify the child's strengths and weaknesses:

Education, Nutrition, Hearing and Speech, Occupational Therapy, Genetics, Physical Therapy, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Neurology, Psychology, Nursing and Social Services. Consults are also available from other pediatric specialties, including neurosurgery, orthopedics, urology, and otolaryngology.

Results are discussed with the family and written reports regarding the individual child's evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment recommendations are developed. These reports are then made available to parents, and with their permission, to doctors, schools, and other agencies that may be involved with the child.

Bradley Hospital

1011 Veterans Memorial Parkway, East Providence , RI 02915, 432-1000

www.bradleyhospital.org

A private, not-for-profit hospital that serves children and adolescents who have behavioral, developmental, emotional and psychological problems. A Lifespan partner and Brown Medical School affiliate, Bradley has established itself as the national center for training and research in child and adolescent psychiatry.

Child and Adolescent Services

- Inpatient Services - ages 2 to 18
- Residential Services - ages 5 to 12
- Outpatient Services
- Emergency Services 24 hrs a day
- Crisis Services - evaluation and referral
- Developmental Disabilities Program - ages 4 to 22

Special Education at Bradley Schools

Fully certified special education schools for children, adolescents and young adults (ages 3 to 21) whose education and behavioral needs cannot be met in a regular school environment. Students benefit from the full scope of Bradley's evaluation, educational and therapeutic services. Referral is through your local school department.

CEDARR Family Centers

CEDARR stands for Comprehensive, Evaluation, Diagnosis, Assessment, Referral and Re-evaluation.

About Families 203 Concord Street, Suite 335, Pawtucket, RI 02860
365-6855

Families First Hasbro Hospital, Room 120, 593 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02903
444-7703

Family Solutions 134 Thurbers Avenue, Suite 102, Providence, RI 02905
461-4351 or (800) 640-7283

The CEDARR Family Centers (CFCs), which were developed as a result of the CEDARR initiative of the RI Children's Cabinet and five state agencies serving children, provides services for children with special health care needs and their families. What's unique about CEDARR Family Centers is its family-centered approach and its ability to help families at any point in the system, meaning if a child is already receiving services through their school system or privately, the CEDARR teams can offer families options and help them navigate the many programs and services available in Rhode Island. Some of the services available through CFCs include: specialty clinical evaluation, crisis intervention and care coordination assistance. CEDARR services can be paid for by private health plans, the Medical Assistance Program, or by the family, depending on the situation. CEDARR Family Centers serve children from birth to age 21. Some of the services offered only through CEDARR are: Home-Based Therapeutic Services Program, Therapeutic Child and Youth Care, and Personal Assistant Services and Supports. The three CEDARR Family Centers serve families throughout the state.

Rhode Island Hearing Assessment Program (RIHAP)

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, Women and Infants Hospital, 100 Dudley Street, Suite 2
Providence, RI 02905 277-3700 voice/relay 277-3701 TDD email: rihap@wihri.org
Rhode Island requires that all newborns have a hearing screening prior to leaving the hospital. Most babies pass the screening test. For those that fail the screening test or pass but require monitoring, the family is given a list of audiologists in RI and nearby CT and MA to follow-up with. Calls from parents who have infants over 2 months of age are usually referred to the Audiology Clinic at Women & Infants Hospital (see below).

Audiology Clinic at Women & Infants Hospital

134 Thurbers Avenue, Suite 215, Providence, RI 02905 453-7751
Provides audiology testing & services for infants older than 2 months. This clinic also provides services and treatment for children and adults & referrals to audiologists in RI and nearby CT & MA.

Rhode Island School for the Deaf - Hearing Center

One Corliss Park
Providence, RI 02908
222-7428
Provides hearing assessments for children over 3 years of age. There is no cost to families for this service.

RI Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Office of Rehabilitative Services
RI Department of Human Services
40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903
222-2300
www.ors.ri.gov

Provides the following services for children (birth to 3 years of age):

- Case management services to assist the family with transition from Early Intervention to school;
- Functional vision evaluations;
- Coordination with a teacher from the RI Vision Education & Services Program (see below); and
- Assistance with purchasing low vision equipment or adaptive aids, if appropriate.

RI Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired also serve older children and adults.

RI Vision Education & Services Program

Paul Sherlock Center on Disabilities

Rhode Island College

456-8910

Provides a teacher who is specially trained to work with children (from birth to 3 years of age) who are blind or visually impaired. This teacher coordinates with the RI Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired Program (see above) and consults with all of Rhode Island's Early Intervention Programs. In addition to the birth to 3 age group, this program also provides services and supports to children up to age 21.

Community Asthma Programs of Hasbro Children's Hospital

Rhode Island Hospital

593 Eddy Street, P.O. 438

Providence, RI 02903

Main number: 444-8340

Parent Consultant: Lisa LeTang 444-7934

The goal of the Community Asthma Programs is to assist families in developing the knowledge, motivation, and skills to advocate for their children's health and successfully manage asthma. Their current projects include: the CVS Draw A Breath Program, the School Asthma Partnerships, Asthma Support Groups, and a camp for children with asthma.

Support Groups & Programs

Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

175 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
727-4144 or (800) 464-3399 - toll free in RI only
TDD: 727-4151

www.ripin.org

RIPIN provides information, referral, and support for all families - whether or not their children have special needs. Workshops are offered on parenting, special education, early interventions and transitions from one service system to another. RIPIN provides information and support about early intervention programs, home visiting programs for young children, as well as individual advocacy and support for health and special education issues. RIPIN also has a lending library of books, videotapes, and audiotapes on various topics of interest to families of children with special needs and typically developing children.

Family to Family (a RIPIN program)

www.rifamilytofamily.net Cynthia Montero 727-4144 x141

Family to Family connects families of children and adults with special needs with other families who have similar needs and experiences. This gives families the opportunity to share information and support and get information on local, state, and national resources for families.

Fathers 1st (a RIPIN program)

www.fathers1st.org Mike Masse 727-4144 x 133 or mike@fathers1st.org

Fathers 1st is a unique program that offers support to fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers and any other males who care about children with special needs. Mike Masse, the founder of Fathers 1st, offers a support group once a month in Woonsocket and is starting similar support groups with every EI Provider. Call or email Mike for more information on dates and times of meetings.

Family Voices of Rhode Island (a RIPIN program)

www.ripin.org Dawn Wardyga, Program Director, 727-4144 x158 or familyvoices@ripin.org

Family Voices of Rhode Island offers health information, advocacy, training and support to help families learn about their child's illness or disability and ultimately seek positive outcomes for their child and family. Family Voices is part of a national network of families and friends of children with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses.

Family Outreach Program

Rhode Island Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill, Room 302
Providence, RI 02908
222-5949

www.health.ri.gov

The Family Outreach Program is a home visiting program for new parents. Nurses visit parents in their home and can provide information and support and/or community referrals on basic needs, safety, and general parenting issues.

The Children's Network

620 Potters Avenue, Providence, RI 02907
223-0392

www.meetingstreet.org

The Children's Network is a collaborative partnership that was formed to provide comprehensive services for children of all abilities, ages 3 to pre-kindergarten, and their families at specific childcare facilities in Providence. The Network is a service of Meeting Street School in partnership with Federal Hill House Association, The Genesis Center, John Hope Settlement House, West End Community Center, Beautiful Beginnings, and other family childcare providers. The Children's Network offers mental health services, health and dental care, social services and educational programs at no cost to families. The Children's Network brings services directly to children, families and teachers at the partner childcare centers, minimizing transportation and scheduling issues. Through the Network, families have access to an education coordinator, health consultant, mental health specialist, nutritionist and family advocate. The ultimate goal of all these services is to ensure the children are prepared to enroll and succeed in kindergarten.

Child Opportunity Zone Family Centers

Child Opportunity Zone (COZ) are located at or near a school where families can have access to health, education and social services. COZ's help families get before- and after-school child care services, education enrichment, adult education, preventive health and safety information, health screening and referrals, and education programs. For more information in your community, see below:

Bristol / Warren

Myra Webster 245-2461

North Kingstown

Donna Thompson...541-6340 or 268-6435

Central Falls

Jackie Parra 727-6177 x206

Pawtucket

Mary Parella 729-6293

Cranston

Maureen Greaves 270-8078

Providence

Amelia Allard 273-8866 x155

Middletown

Kristen Pachico 418-0071

Westerly

Sally Mitchell, Cheryl Watson 596-6856

Newport

Christine Arouth 845-8579 x23

Woonsocket

Terry Curtin 766-3384

Vulnerable Infants Programs (VIP)

111 Plain Street, 2nd floor
Providence, RI 02903
276-7887

The Vulnerable Infants Program provides care coordination and support for drug or alcohol exposed infants and their families. The program is designed to improve the community's ability to manage cases of drug-exposed children at risk for compromised development and to provide the earliest and best intervention for these infants.

The Autism Project of Rhode Island

51 Sockanosset Crossroads, Suite A
Cranston, RI 02920
785-2666

www.theautismproject.org

The Autism Project is a group of dedicated parents and professionals whose mission is to create a comprehensive system of services to support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families. Activities include: training for parents and professionals, an on-line newsletter and a camp for children with ASD and related communication disorders.

Parent Support Network of Rhode Island

Warwick Executive Park, Building F
400 Warwick Avenue, Suite 12
Warwick, RI 02888
467-6855 or (800) 483-8844

PSN is a statewide organization of families supporting families with children and youth who are at risk for or who have behavioral and/or emotional challenges. They provide support groups, telephone support, educational events, one-to-one assistance with advocacy and/or literature concerning education, mental health, parenting a child with special emotional or behavioral needs, juvenile justice, and substance abuse case support. Meetings are held in various areas throughout the state. Services are also available in Spanish.

Child Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP)

CASSP is a network of 8 Local Coordinating Councils (LCC s) that bring together parent advocates, children's service agencies and other community partners concerned with the needs of children and their families. CASSP is available statewide to families who have children ages birth to 21 who have a serious emotional or behavioral challenge, have had or have the potential to have the disability for more than one year and are already in or at risk for out-of-home placement. The goal of CASSP is to prevent families from becoming separated and to maintain children in their home communities. To make a referral to CASSP, call the LCC serving your area:

Providence

401-421-6993

Metro West (Cranston, Johnston, Foster, Gloucester, North Providence, Smithfield and Scituate)

401-784-3600

Pawtucket/Central Falls

401-722-5573 x252

Washington County (Narragansett, New Shoreham, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Westerly, Exeter & Chariho)

401-789-1166

East Bay (Barrington, Bristol, Warren and East Providence)

401-431-9870 x 208

Newport (Newport, Middletown, Jamestown, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Little Compton)

401-848-6363

Northern Rhode Island (Woonsocket, North Smithfield, Burrville, Cumberland and Lincoln)

401-762-3429

Kent County (Warwick, West Warwick, Coventry, East Greenwich and West Greenwich)

401-732-5656

Comprehensive Emergency Services (CES)

CES is a statewide, community-based program for families in crisis. CES provides short-term case management services and counseling and educational services to meet the emergency needs of children and their families. The CES program is designed to stabilize family conflict and prevent child abuse and out-of-home placements.

Contacts by region:

John Hope Settlement House, 7 Burgess Street, Providence, 455-2330

Family Services, 55 Hope Street, Providence, 331-2900

Child and Family Services of Newport, 24 School Street, Newport, 849-2300

South Shore Community Mental Health Center, Cherry Lane, Wakefield, 789-1367

Family Resources, 460 South Main Street, Woonsocket, 766-0900

Cranston Community Action, 311 Doric Avenue, Cranston, 461-4640

Community Counseling Center, 160 Beechwood Avenue, Pawtucket, 722-6053

Children's Intensive Services (CIS)

Children's Intensive Services Program provides children with severe behavioral health problems comprehensive, home- and community-based behavioral health services. This includes clinical care and case management services. The intent of the program, in addition to helping children and their families, is to encourage community-based treatment in place of treatment in more restrictive environments, such as inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations or residential care. The CIS Program is available for children with Medicaid coverage only. For children with commercial coverage, there is another program, Child and Family Intensive Treatment Services that have similar benefits. *Regional contacts:*

Community Counseling Center 729-8701
East Bay Mental Health Center 431-9870
Family Services of Rhode Island 331-1350 x 104 or 105
The Kent Center for Human and Organizational Development 732-5656
Mental Health Services 729-8701
Newport County Community Mental Health Center 848-6363 x120
Northern Rhode Island Community Services 235-7403
The Providence Center 276-4020
South Shore Mental Health Center 789-1367 x5300

Dual Sensory Impairment Project

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities
Rhode Island College
600 Mount Pleasant Ave.
Providence, RI 02908
401-456-8072

The *Dual Sensory Impairment Project* gives families who have children with vision and hearing loss resources to make informed choices. The Project also includes a free assistive technology and toy lending library. The project staff work with schools and also provide direct family support using Parent Consultants. Serves children from birth through age 21.

Moms Club

Moms Club are support groups for women who stay home part- or full- time with their children. For more information, call Wendy Labato at 732-2194 or Kendra Marasco at 782-6258.

Pediatric Practices Serving Children with Special Needs

Several pediatricians' offices in the state take care of children with special health care needs (CSHCN). A pilot project was started to support Primary Care Pediatric and Family Practices dedicated to serving children with special health care needs by providing Parent Consultant services to families and staff. The Parent Consultant's role is to assist families in accessing CEDARR Family Centers, the Early Intervention program and other community services. Participating offices include:

Kids Health Team, Hasbro Children's Hospital (Providence) 444-3734
Memorial Hospital, Pediatric Primary Care Center (Pawtucket) 729-2582
Thundermist Health Center (Woonsocket) 767-4100
Aquidneck Medical Associates (Newport) 847-2290
South County Pediatrics Group, Inc. (Wakefield) 789-6492
Park Pediatrics, Inc. (Cranston) 274-6575
Dr. Cheryl Flynn (Lincoln) 333-1656

Early Childhood Programs

Early Head Start

Early Head Start is a national program that provides comprehensive child development services to families with children under 3 and to pregnant women. The purpose of Early Head Start is to: enhance children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development; enable parents to be better caregivers and teachers to their children; and to help parents meet their own goals, including that of economic independence.

Pregnant women or families with children from birth to three years of age whose income is below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) income guidelines may be eligible. Up to 10% of the enrollment can be families with income over 100% of the FPL. And at least 10% of enrollment in each program must be made available to children with disabilities. Early Head Start services are free to families. If parents choose to enroll their children in childcare that extends outside of the Early Head Start hours, there may be fees based on their income.

Head Start

Head Start is a national program that provides comprehensive child developmental services to preschool children ages 3-5 and social services for their families. Specific services for children in Head Start focus on: education, social and emotional development, physical and mental health, and nutrition.

Families of children ages 3-5 whose income is below 100% of the FPL may be eligible. Up to 10% of the enrollment can be families with income over 100% of the FPL. And at least 10% of enrollment in each program must be made available to children with disabilities. Head Start services are free to families.

CHILD, Inc.

160 Draper Avenue
Warwick 737-0403

Children's Friend and Service

153 Summer Street
Providence 276-4300

Comprehensive Community Action Program

848 Atwood Avenue
Cranston 943-5160

New Visions for Newport County

Joel Peckham School
654 Green End Avenue
Middletown 846-5454

Providence Head Start

20 Almy Street
Providence 272-1760

East Bay Community Action

100 Bullocks Point Avenue
Riverside 245-2833

South County Community Action Program

1080 Kingstown Road
PO Box 3738
Wakefield 789-3016

Tri-Town Community Action Agency

1126 Hartford Avenue
Johnston 351-2750 x1126

Woonsocket Head Start and Day Care

204 Warwick Street
Woonsocket 769-1850

Comprehensive Child Care Services

Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Comprehensive Child Care Services

600 New London Avenue

Cranston, RI 02920

462-6875 -- call for local program sites

www.dhs.ri.gov

The Comprehensive Child Care Services provides childcare services to families who have children age 3 through entry into kindergarten and who receive a Department of Human Services' subsidy for childcare. Services include: assessment and individualized planning regarding children's health and/or mental health issues, early childhood education, support for children with disabilities, nutrition and family education.

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)

(a RIPIN program)

727-4144 x154 or (800) 464-3399 x154 - toll free in RI only

State Director : Mary Doyle 729-6509

HIPPY is a home visiting program for parents of children 3-5 years of age. It provides support for the development of school readiness skills and gives parents opportunities to meet other parents with children of the same age. HIPPY is in 7 communities: Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Johnston, North Smithfield, Pawtucket and Providence. There is no fee for participation.

Parents As Teachers (PAT)

(a RIPIN program)

727-4144 x154 or (800) 464-3399 x154 - toll free in RI only

State Director : Gladys Tiede

The *Parents As Teachers* Program is designed to provide parents of children from before birth to age 5, the information and support they need to give their children the best possible start in life. Parent As Teachers offers regularly scheduled home visits by certified parent educators. There is no fee for participation. Parents As Teachers has programs in 19 communities, in 11 school districts and at 17 community-based agencies.

Project Early Start

Project Early Start is a comprehensive program for families with children from birth to three years old who are at risk for developmental, health and social problems. The project provides information on parenting, child development, home management and family interaction skills. Parenting groups and play groups are also available. Anyone can refer a family to the program. To be eligible, a family's income must be below 250% of the federal poverty level. Project Early Start is coordinated by the Department of Children, Youth and Families who has contracts with the following agencies to provide services:

Children's Friend and Service

153 Summer Street, Providence 331-2900

The Providence Center

520 Hope Street, Providence 276-4000

Socio Economic Development Center

620 Potters Avenue, Providence

941-8422

Child and Family Service of Newport County

24 School Street, Newport 849-2300

Child, Inc., 160 Draper Street, Warwick, 732-5200

Family Resources, 460 Main Street, Woonsocket,
766-0900

The Providence Center, Early Childhood Institute
Solutions for the Behavioral and Emotional Health of Young Children

520 Hope Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02906

276-4137 or (800) 456-0300

www.providencecenter.org

The Providence Center's Early Childhood Institute offers the following services for children from birth to age 5:

- ♦ Classroom, office, and community-based treatment for children under 5 who have behaviors that seriously disrupt their homes and child care settings. Treatment includes working with parents and other caregivers.
- ♦ Parent-child assessment and reunification activities.
- ♦ Training and consultation to child care providers about: understanding social/emotional development, effective intervention strategies, environmental structure, and professional relationships; Trainings may be developed to meet the specific needs of a child care provider.
- ♦ Training for other providers, such as, mental health professionals, health care providers, child care administrators, and early childhood teachers.
- ♦ Parent education workshops

Training

RI Early Intervention Training Center

The RI Early Intervention Training Center at the University of Rhode Island provides training and professional development support to all Early Intervention personnel in the state. On-going training activities include: a four-day series- *Introduction to Early Intervention*; a monthly seminar with Early Intervention supervisors; and additional trainings as needed that are identified by service providers, supervisors and directors. For more information about the EITraining Center, contact Judy Semonoff at 277-5409 or jsemonoff@uri.edu

Child Care Support Network (CCSN)

RI Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI
222-5372 or 222-5949

CCSN provides on-site technical assistance to child care providers to improve childcare quality for young children. If you have a child with special needs and would like to place him/her in a child care setting, CCSN can provide training and technical assistance to the child care provider to meet your child's unique needs. These services are offered statewide.

Childspan

Independence Square
500 Prospect Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
729-0765
www.childspan.net

Childspan is a Rhode Island organization that provides professional development opportunities for child care and education providers who serve children from birth through age 16.

The Autism Project of Rhode Island

51 Sockanosset Crossroads, Suite A
Cranston, RI 02920
785-2666
www.theautismproject.org
See page 17 for description.

Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

175 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
727-4144 or (800) 464-3399 - toll free in RI only
TDD: 727-4151
www.ripin.org
See page 16 for description.

Other

RI Medical Assistance Program

There are four ways that children may become eligible for Medical Assistance coverage. (1) Supplemental Security Income (SSI), (2) Katie Beckett (3) Adoption subsidy through DCYF or (4) RItE Care or RItE Share. Each of these ways has a different application process.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)- If a child is eligible for SSI benefits because of a disability or the parents' income, then that child is also eligible to receive Medical Assistance. For more information, please call (800) 772-1213.

Katie Beckett - Katie Beckett is an eligibility provision of the Medical Assistance Program that provides Medical Assistance coverage to certain children under the age of 18 who have serious disabling conditions and live at home. Katie Beckett eligibility enables children with disabilities to be cared for at home instead of in an institution. Only the child's income and resources, not their parents', are used to determine eligibility. For more information, please call the DHS Info Line at 462-5300.

Adoption Subsidy – Children in substitute care (foster care) can also get Medical Assistance coverage. For more information, please call Adoption Services at DCYF : 254-7021.

RItE Care Health Insurance - RItE Care is Rhode Island's Medicaid managed care program that provides health insurance to families in the Family Independence Program and eligible uninsured pregnant women, parents and children up to age 19. RItE Care enrollees receive their health care through one of three participating health plans: Neighborhood Health Plan of RI; Blue CHiP; and United Healthcare of New England. Eligibility for RItE Care is based on income and family size. For more information, please call the DHS Info Line at 462-5300 or check www.dhs.ri.gov

RItE Share- RItE Share is Rhode Island's premium assistance program that helps families obtain health coverage through their employer's health insurance plan. If eligible, RItE Share will pay all or part of the employee's share of monthly premiums for family coverage. Applicants may be eligible for RItE Share if they are eligible for Medical Assistance and if their employer offers an approved health plan. Eligibility and the application process is similar to RItE Care's. Please call the DHS Info Line for more information: 462-5300.

Resources at Hasbro Children's Hospital and other Lifespan hospitals

Frequent Flyers is a service available for children with special health care needs & their families. The purpose of *Frequent Flyers* is to facilitate admission to the hospital for children with frequent admissions. Any family with a child who is a frequent user of a Lifespan hospital (RI Hospital, Hasbro Children's Hospital, Miriam Hospital, Bradley Hospital and Newport Hospital) can access this service. *Frequent Flyers* is a database that families can add to. The database consists of a summary of the child's medical condition, medications and allergies, common presenting problems and how they are managed. It also includes the family's comments, child's photo, primary and specialty physicians, home care providers and emergency contacts. Parents are provided with a secure home-based access to their child's database and can email or send in updates. For more information, contact the Family Center at Hasbro Children's Hospital: 444-3201.

Max All Star Kids is a program for families who have a child with a chronic and/or life-threatening medical condition. The goals of this program are to relieve pain and distressing symptoms and provide services that enhance the comfort and quality of life for the child and family. For more information, contact the Hasbro Children's Hospital Foundation at 444-6410.

The Lending Library at Hasbro Children's Hospital offers a lending library free to all Hasbro Children's Hospital patients and their parents. The general public is also welcome to use the Family Resource Center for a small annual fee. Resources for families and children include books, audio tapes, videos and computer searches of online medical databases. Topics include: parenting children with special needs, general parenting, medical conditions, hospitalization, mental health and bereavement. The library is located at the Hospital's Family Resource Center, first floor, room 118 and is open Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. If you need assistance, call the center to make an appointment for a staff member to be on hand. 444-6090

Organizations That Grant Wishes To Children

The Impossible Dream

575 Centerville Road, Warwick
401-823-5566

The Impossible Dream makes dreams possible for chronically-ill children. Some dreams have included trips to theme parks, specialized medical equipment or recreational toys. The special Impossible Dream playground has fully integrated playground equipment for both physically-challenged and able-bodied children. The playground is open to the public free of charge everyday (except holidays and holiday weekends) from April-October, from 10 am- 3 pm.

A Wish Come True

1010 Warwick Avenue, Warwick
401-781-9199

This organization is dedicated to granting wishes to children between the ages 3-18 that have life-threatening illnesses. Wishes granted have included puppies, bikes, computers, trips, meetings with celebrities, and shopping sprees.

Make a Wish Foundation of RI

744 Park Avenue, Cranston
401-781-9475
rhodeis@wish.org

This organization grants wishes to RI children between the ages of 2½ and 18 that have life-threatening medical conditions or terminal illnesses.

Rhode Island Disability Law Center, Inc.

349 Eddy Street
Providence, RI 02903
831-3150 or (800)733-5332
831-5335 TDY

Provides free legal assistance for persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Special education and legal rights information and referral services are available.

Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP)

Children and Youth Resource Center at the East Bay Collaborative

317 Market St., Warren, R.I. 02885

245-4998 x 302

www.ebecri.org www.atap.state.ri.us

ATAP is a coordinating agency that works in partnership with other assistive technology agencies to provide information about devices that assist people with disabilities to function better at home, work, school or in the community. ATAP also advocates for laws and policies that help people function better at home, work, in school or in the community.

TechAccess of Rhode Island

110 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 1

Warwick, RI 02888

463-0202 or (800)916-8324

www.techaccess-ri.org

A private, not-for-profit resource center that serves people with disabilities who are interested in assistive technology. Information about products, funding, and services are available at no charge. Referral services are available.

Options for Working Parents

Commerce Center, 30 Exchange Terrace

Providence, RI 02903

272-7510

www.optionsforworkingparents.com

Options for Working Parents helps parents looking for childcare. This organization has a statewide computerized file of licensed child care centers, family child care homes, nursery schools, summer camps, and after school programs. *Options* refers parents to child care providers, based on the type of care needed, the location of the facility, and any special amenities needed for the child. There is no fee for this service.

Publications

A Parent's Guide to the Special Education Regulations,
Rhode Island Parent Guide to Assistive Technology,
RI Parents Information Network, www.ripin.org or 727-1411 x 150.

Transition from Early Intervention: A Family Guide,
Paul Sherlock Center on Disabilities, Rhode Island College, 456-8072.

Rhode Island Summer Recreation Guide, RI Developmental Disabilities Council,
www.riddc.org or 737-1238.

Rhode Island Directory of Human Service and Government Agencies, Crossroads,
www.crossroads.org or 521-2255.

Rhode Island Family Guide 2004, www.rifamilyguide.com or 247-0850.

Rhode Island Government Owner's Manual, Secretary of State, 222-2357.

Organizations

Autism Society of RI
738-8922

Brain Injury Association of RI
461-6599

CHADD of RI
Children and Adults with
Attention Deficit Disorder
943-9399

Child Abuse Hotline
800-742-4453

Child Advocates Office
222-6650

Down Syndrome Society of RI
463-5751

Families and Disabilities News
www.isi.ukans.edu

Family Health Information Line, RI Department of Health
Information on WIC, Immunizations,
Lead Poisoning Prevention,
Adolescent Health and Family
Planning.
www.health.ri.gov
(800)942-7434

Family Village for families
with children with special needs
www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/web sites.html

Family Voices
www.familyvoices.org
727-4144 x 158

Mental Health Association of RI
726-2285

Muscular Dystrophy Association
732-1910

NAMI RI
National Alliance of the Mentally Ill
331-3060

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities
www.nichcy.org

National Organization for Rare Disorders
www.rarediseases.org
(800) 999-6673

Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights
www.pacer.org

RI Autism Project
785-2666

RI Community Food Bank
www.rifoodbank.org
942-MEAL (6325)

Office of Special Populations
RI Department of Education
www.ridoe.net
general info: 222-3505

RI Department of Human Services, DHS Info Line
Information on Food Stamps,
Family Independence Program,
Child Care, Medical Assistance &
Rlte Care.
www.dhs.ri.gov
462-5300

RI Developmental Disabilities Council
www.riddc.org
737-1238

RI Donation Exchange Program
831-5511

RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN)
www.ripin.org
727-4144 or (800) 464-3399

Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Office of
Rehabilitation Services, DHS
www.ors.ri.gov/SBVI.htm
222-2300

United Cerebral Palsy of RI
728-1800

Very Special Arts of RI
725-0247

VNA of RI
Visiting Nurse Association
335-2400



Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Center for Child and Family Health
600 New London Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

401-462-5300
www.dhs.ri.gov

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